

HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 3
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
September 3, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of the Hidalgo County Emergency Services District No. 3 met for a Board Meeting on September 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The Notice and Agenda was posted according the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551. **The meeting was conducted via video conference or telephone call as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and pursuant to Governor Abbott's suspension order of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.**

Call meeting to order and roll call.

The meeting was called to order by Luis Flores, President at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Luis Flores, President; Aaron Vela, Vice-President; Travis Richards, Secretary-Treasurer; Patrick Eronini, Member; and Gail Cappadona, Member. Also present was Frank Prado, Jr., Attorney; and Velinda Reyes from Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Commissioner's Office

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No member of the public asked to comment on any agenda item.

1. Discussion of the proposed 2021 budget and 2020 tax rate.

Frank Prado, Jr. presented the Commissioners with information regarding the District current account balances and the projected final expenses for the District for 2020 versus the budgeted amounts for 2020. Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Commissioners that the District should stay within the 2020 budget with the exception of the expense for ambulance service which had originally been budgeted at zero pending award of a contract and the payment on the pumper truck. Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Commissioners that now that the contract for ambulance had been awarded and the amount known the budget would need to be amended for 2020 to include the amounts that would be paid under the contract for the remainder of the year. Frank Prado, Jr. also advised the Commissioners that a budget amendment would have to be made to include the pumper truck payments that were made during 2020. Frank Prado, Jr. recommended that the proposed budget amounts for 2021 for the various budget categories remain the same as for 2020 with the exception of adding in the amount needed to cover the cost of the ambulance service contract in the amount of \$96,000 and reducing the amount for equipment purchase to \$50,000 subject to amendment if it was later determined that the District needed to expend more than \$50,000 on equipment purchase during the year. Frank Prado, Jr. further presented information from the tax office regarding tax benchmark amounts and projected revenues based on property values in the District indicating the highest tax rate of \$0.0251 that could be adopted by the District without voter approval, the tax rate that would collect no new revenue versus the prior year's tax rate, and the tax rate amount of \$0.0227 which would keep the projected tax revenue for the District at approximately \$498,000 and would keep the District designated as a small taxing unit. Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Commissioners that the 2019 adopted tax rate was \$0.0245. The discussion was closed and no action was taken on this item.

2. Consider and take appropriate action to approve a proposed 2020 tax rate for the District, set a date for a meeting to adopt the District's 2021 budget and 2020 tax rate, and approve publication of notice to the public of the proposed tax rate and public meeting as required by law.

Frank Prado, Jr. informed the Commissioners that that the Board needed to take action to propose a tax rate, approve a date for the meeting to adopt the proposed budget and tax rate, and to publish notice of the date and place of the meeting and the proposed tax rate as required by law. Mr. Eronini discussed lowering the tax rate for the citizens of the District during the times being faced by the community The Commissioners agreed that \$0.0227 was the amount to propose taking all the

factors into consideration. There being no further questions or discussion, a motion was made by Patrick Eronini to approve a proposed tax rate of \$0.0227 per \$100 of property valuation, to approve September 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. as the date and time for meeting to adopt the proposed budget and tax rate to be held via Zoom video conference, and to publish notice of the proposed tax rate and meeting as required by law. Aaron Vela seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, a motion was made by Patrick Eronini to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Aaron Vela. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Approved on the 17th day of September, 2020.

LUIS FLORES,
PRESIDENT
HIDALGO COUNTY ESD NO.3

TRAVIS RICHARDS,
SECRETARY-TREASURER
HIDALGO COUNTY ESD NO.3